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PRESS RELEASE

A directory of Hispanic attorneys in New Jersey has recently been published by the Hispanic Bar Association. It is the only known directory of its kind in the country and includes the names, addresses and phone numbers of 158 Hispanic attorneys on a county-by-county basis. This is the second annual publication of the directory by the Association. The total for 1984 represents a 16 percent increase over the 137 lawyers listed in 1983. According to the directory, 27 percent of the attorneys are women. The list is not all-inclusive since it is only published once in the Association year; nevertheless, it is the best available compilation of Hispanic attorneys in the state.

Hispanic attorneys are now practicing in 16 of New Jersey's 21 counties. Only Hunterdon, Ocean, Salem, Sussex and Warren were without Hispanic legal representation.

The majority of the Hispanic lawyers practice in a handful of counties in the northeastern part of the state. Essex, Hudson and Union together accounted for 112 of the total attorneys or 71 percent of all Hispanic lawyers. Essex had the largest number with 51, followed by Hudson, 42 and Union 19. Rounding out the top five were Middlesex with 9 and Cumberland 7. In addition, there were 6 Hispanic lawyers practicing in Mercer and Five in Bergen, Monmouth and Passaic. Also, there were two in Atlantic and Morris and there is one each in Camden, Cape May, Gloucester and Somerset.

A recent report by the state's Administrative Office of the Courts puts the total number of attorneys in the state at 26,000. (Star-Ledger, May 27, 1984). Hispanic attorneys represent less than 1 percent of this total figure. By contrast, New Jersey's Hispanic population accounts for over 7 percent of all those who live in the state. The total is estimated at more than 500,000.

The Hispanic Bar Association is working to help increase the number of Hispanics practicing law in New Jersey and is providing financial assistance through the state's three law schools to Hispanic law students. More than \$3,500.00 in scholarships have been awarded in the past three years.

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